

whatever happened to the idea of Balance in Broadcasting? Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This is not fair to those of us with opposing viewpoints who DON'T happen to own 62 stations. This threatens to undermine and destroy our entire political system.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

I would hope that the fact that the FCC is now headed by a Republican would not influence your action (or inaction) on this. For the long term just think about the precedent--someday the Republicans WILL be the minority party and how would you want the rules to be interpreted? I will be watching. Thank you.